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DAN MORA
MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
image
#28
D.NA
8.25

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-EIGHT

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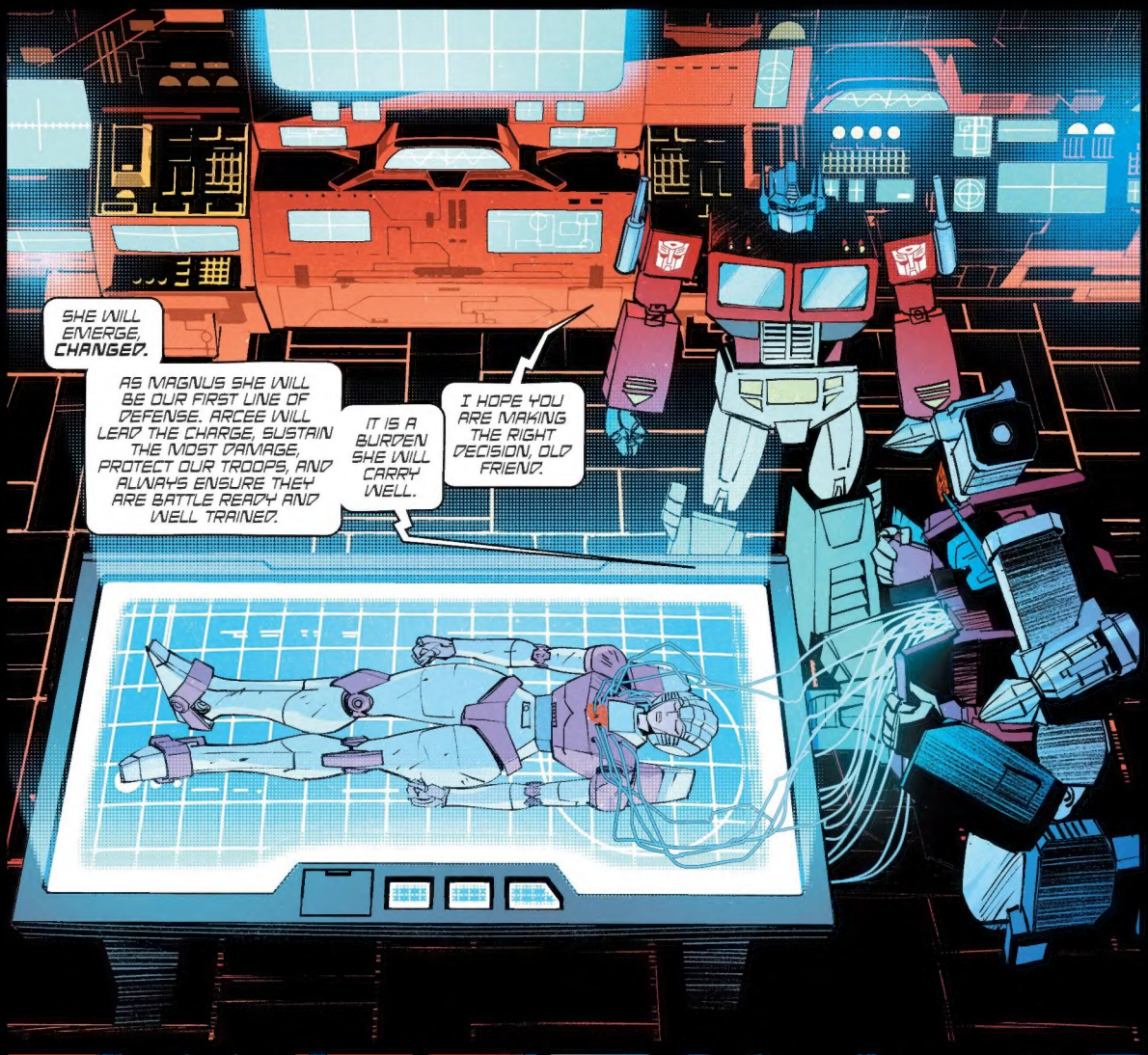
THE NEMESIS.
DECEPTICON STRONGHOLD.
RELEASE ME, DEZIMIR!
CONSTRUCTICONS! HOLD HIM DOWN BEFORE HE DAMAGES THE NEMESIS!
WHAT'S A DEZIMIR?!
UNCLEAR! RUMBLE, HELP US BEFORE HE--!

WRAM
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR TRIALS!
I'VE--
HAD... ENOUGH.
MEGATRON? ARE YOU--IS IT OVER?
UNHAND ME AT ONCE!

AH. SKYWARP. ONE OF MY MOST LOYAL SOLDIERS.
AND YOU COME BEARING GIFTS. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
I WAS DISMANTLED. THE AUTOBOTS FOOLISHLY REPAIRED ME. I WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE, BUT SOUNDWAVE REMAINS IN THEIR CAPTIVITY.
YES. SOUNDWAVE. WE CAN'T ALLOW OUR FALLEN BROTHER TO REMAIN IN THE CLUTCHES OF OUR MOST HATED ENEMY.
WE MUST PREPARE AN ATTACK AT ONCE!

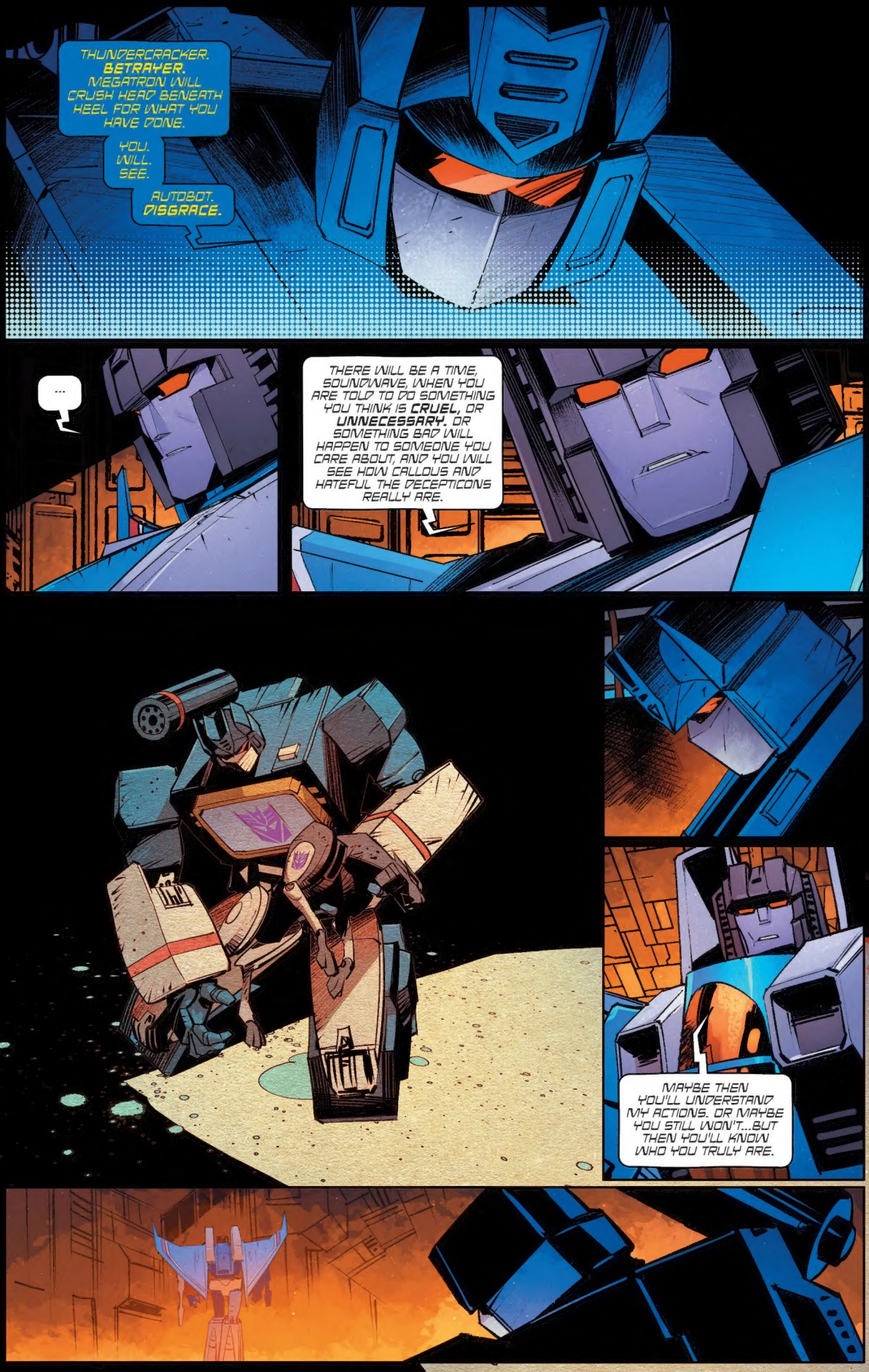
"CAN ARCEE HEAR US?"
"I DON'T KNOW, OPTIMUS. SOME CAN. SOME CAN'T. REGARDLESS, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESPOND.
"SHE IS ON HER VISION QUEST TO BECOME MAGNUS. IT IS A LONG JOURNEY OF COMMUNING WITH THE GREAT WARRIORS OF OUR PAST."
COMMUNING?!
SHRAKK!
ZAPP!
ZAP!


SHE WILL EMERGE, CHANGED.
AS MAGNUS SHE WILL BE OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE. ARCEE WILL LEAD THE CHARGE, SUSTAIN THE MOST DAMAGE, PROTECT OUR TROOPS, AND ALWAYS ENSURE THEY ARE BATTLE READY AND WELL TRAINED.
IT IS A BURDEN SHE WILL CARRY WELL.
I HOPE YOU ARE MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION, OLD FRIEND.

I'VE RARELY BEEN THIS SURE ABOUT ANYTHING. ARCEE WILL BE A FAR BETTER MAGNUS THAN I EVER WAS.
I'M SURE YOU'D AGREE, PRIME. IT WOULDN'T OFFEND ME.

I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW THIS SITS WITH ME. MAGNUS IS A TITLE TRADITIONALLY CARRIED FOR LIFE.
IT IS UNUSUAL FOR ONE TO SIMPLY... STEP DOWN.

I HAVE MADE MY DECISION.


THUNDERCRACKER. BETRAYER. MEGATRON WILL CRUSH HEAD BENEATH HEEL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
YOU. WILL. SEE.
AUTOBOT. DISGRACE.
...
THERE WILL BE A TIME, SOUNDWAVE, WHEN YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SOMETHING YOU THINK IS CRUEL, OR UNNECESSARY. OR SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT, AND YOU WILL SEE HOW CALLOUS AND HATEFUL THE DECEPTICONS REALLY ARE.
MAYBE THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND MY ACTIONS. OR MAYBE YOU STILL WON'T...BUT THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHO YOU TRULY ARE.

SHADOW WATCH UNDERGROUND BASE.
FIRST TIME SEEING THE SUN IN A WHILE, HUH, MAYHEM? DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT A NICE DARK HOLE PICKED OUT FOR YOU, MY HATEFUL LITTLE MUSHROOM.
SORRY, FLAGG. I HAVE OTHER PLANS.
VIPER, ACTIVATE!
CHIK-CHA-TFE!
BLADEJET, RELEASE!
AAAGH!
SSSS!
SECURE THE PRISONER!
VMMM
THE HELL?

CROSS

CONSIDER THIS MY RESIGNATION, FLAGG!

SSSS

I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO SHOOT THIS GUY MYSE--

=AGGGH!=

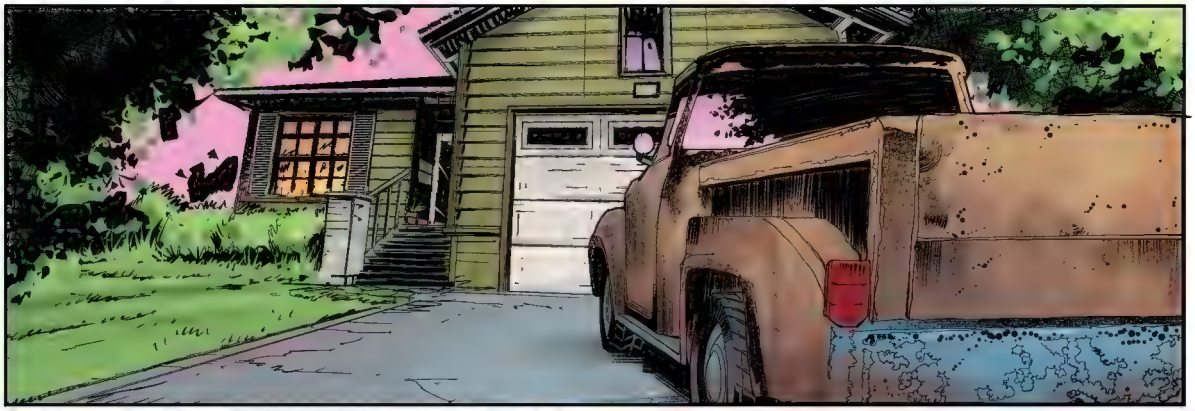
GET HIM!

WHU WHUP

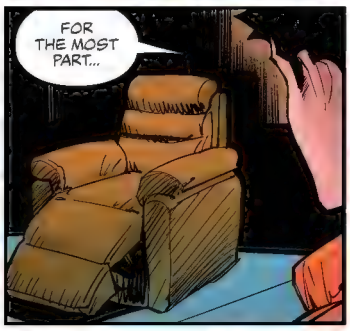
STOP HIM! STOP--

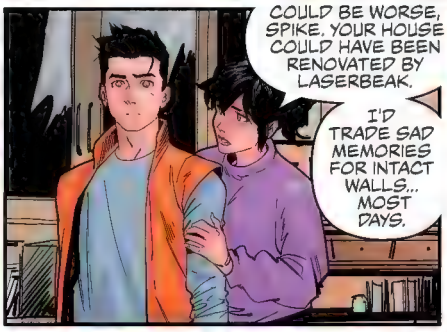
DOES NO ONE HAVE A ROCKET LAUNCHER HANDY?!

WHUP
WHUP
SOMEONE FIND MATT TRAKKER.
I'VE GOT A SNEAKING SUSPICION WE BACKED THE WRONG HORSE.



I HOPE IT'S NOT WEIRD, ME STAYING HERE.
HONESTLY, CARLY, IT'S WEIRD BEING HOME AT ALL AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH. IT'LL BE NICE NOT SLEEPING IN THE BACK OF AN ALIEN CAR...OR ALIEN TRUCK, OR ALIEN JET.
IT'S JUST GOOD TO BE HOME.


FOR THE MOST PART...

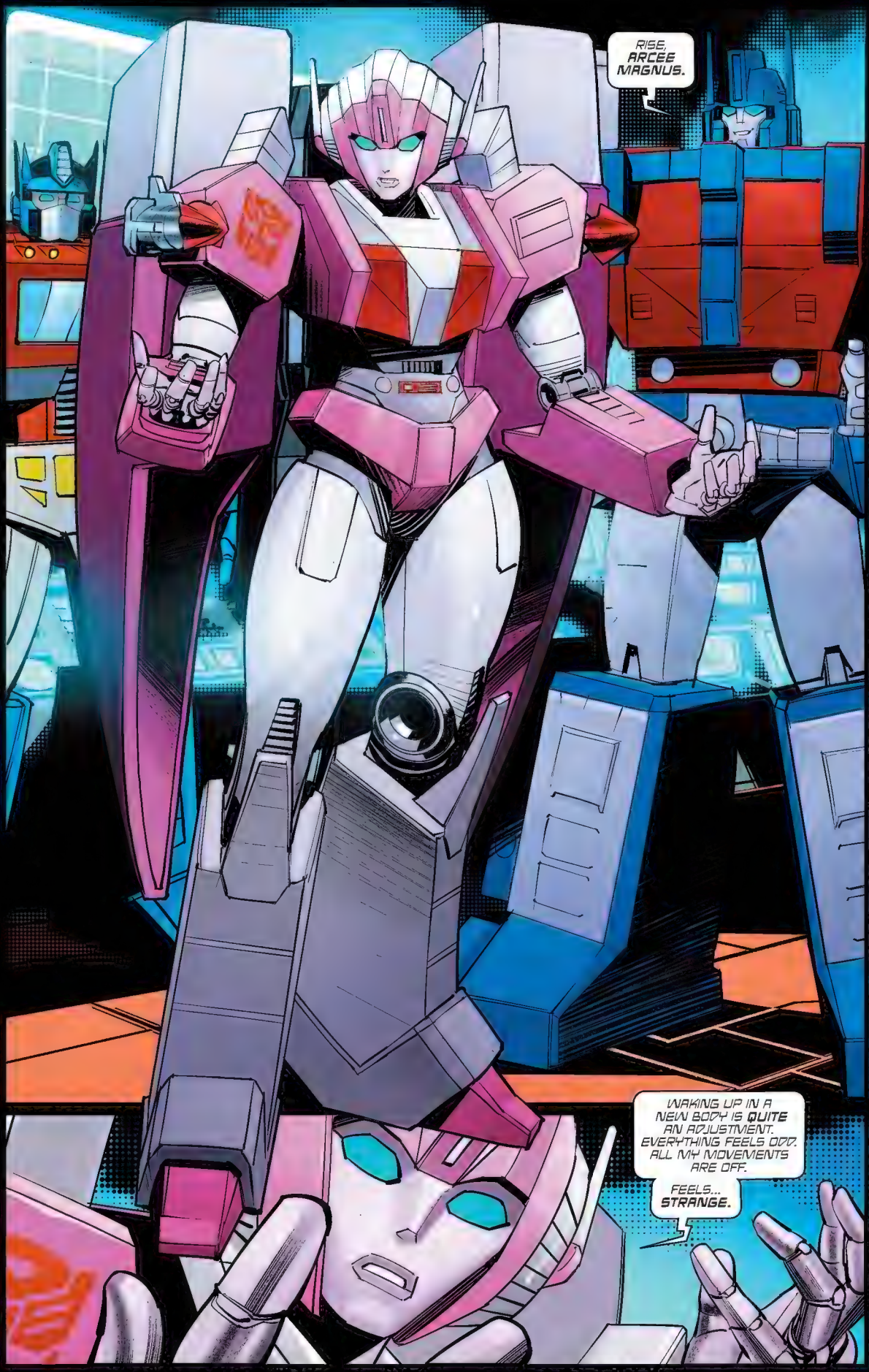

COULD BE WORSE, SPIKE. YOUR HOUSE COULD HAVE BEEN RENOVATED BY LASERBEAK.
I'D TRADE SAD MEMORIES FOR INTACT WALLS... MOST DAYS.

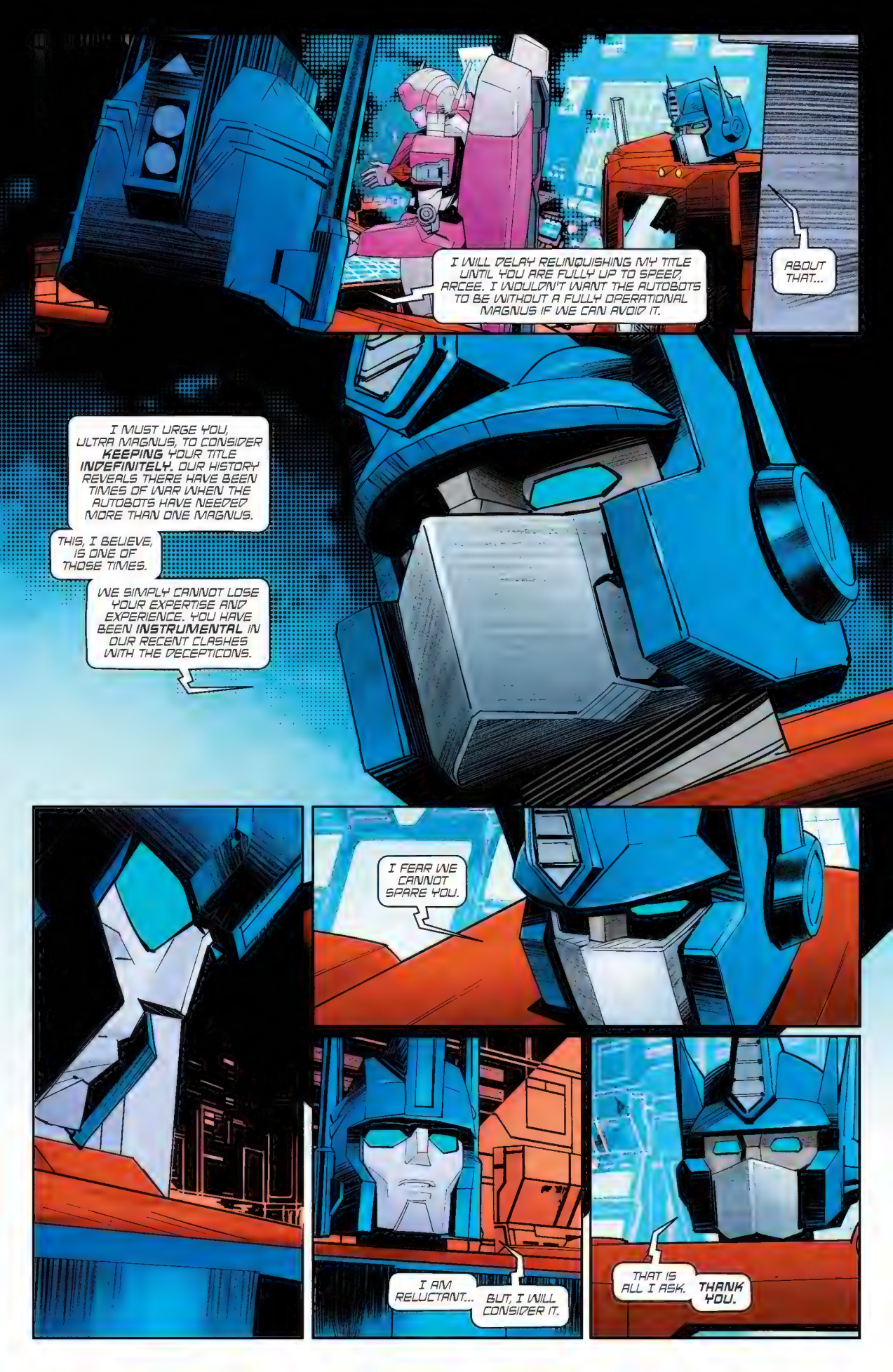
NO SAD MEMORIES. NOT WHEN YOU'RE HERE.

YEAH. WHILE IT LASTS. YOU START AT BERKELEY NEXT SEMESTER.
YEAH. NO. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

OH?
WHAT CAN I SAY? THE STARS AREN'T AS EXCITING NOW THAT THERE'S LESS MYSTERY AS TO WHAT'S OUT THERE.
IT ALSO DOESN'T HELP THAT WHAT'S OUT THERE IS PRETTY SCARY.

SPIKE, NO. YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS.
I'M NOT. I'M JUST...
CONSIDERING A NEW PATH.


RISE, ARCEE MAGNUS.
WAKING UP IN A NEW BODY IS QUITE AN ADJUSTMENT. EVERYTHING FEELS ODD. ALL MY MOVEMENTS ARE OFF.
FEELS... STRANGE.

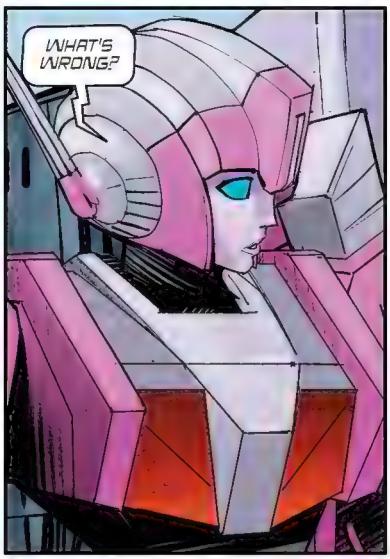

I WILL DELAY RELINQUISHING MY TITLE UNTIL YOU ARE FULLY UP TO SPEED, ARCEE. I WOULDN'T WANT THE AUTOBOTS TO BE WITHOUT A FULLY OPERATIONAL MAGNUS IF WE CAN AVOID IT.
ABOUT THAT...
I MUST URGE YOU, ULTRA MAGNUS, TO CONSIDER **KEEPING** YOUR TITLE **INDEFINITELY.** OUR HISTORY REVEALS THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES OF WAR WHEN THE AUTOBOTS HAVE NEEDED MORE THAN ONE MAGNUS.
THIS, I BELIEVE, IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.
WE SIMPLY CANNOT LOSE YOUR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE. YOU HAVE BEEN **INSTRUMENTAL** IN OUR RECENT CLASHES WITH THE DECEPTICONS.
I FEAR WE CANNOT SPARE YOU.
I AM RELUCTANT...
BUT, I WILL CONSIDER IT.
THAT IS ALL I ASK.
THANK YOU.

WHOA! I FEEL SAFER ALREADY!
THANK YOU, BEACHCOMBER!
HEY! YOU'VE GOT HIS MISSILES AND EVERYTHING! BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD A NEW MAGNUS!
EXCITING!
THAT IS QUITE THE UPGRADE, YOU HONOR US.
I'VE GATHERED YOU HERE FOR OUR FIRST MISSION. WE'RE GOING TO CANVASS THE AREA, LOOKING FOR ANY AND ALL SIGNS OF DECEPTICON ACTIVITY.
WITH OUR NEWLY EXPANDED ROSTER, I KNOW WE CAN COVER A LOT OF GROUND. WITH ANY LUCK, WE CAN LOCATE AND ELIMINATE SOME DECEPTICON THREATS.
BEFORE WE ROLL OUT--
ARCEE MAGNUS, AS YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL DUTY AS MAGNUS, RALLY THE TROOPS.
YES, SIR.
AUTOBOTS!

ULTRA MAGNUS.
JAZZ.
WHEELJACK.
BEACHCOMBER.
SILVERBOLT.
AIR RAID.
FIREFLIGHT.
SKYDIVE.
BLASTER.
SHREDHEAD.
BRAWN.
JETFIRE.
MIRAGE.
SIDESWIPE.
THUNDERCRACKER.
BULKHEAD.

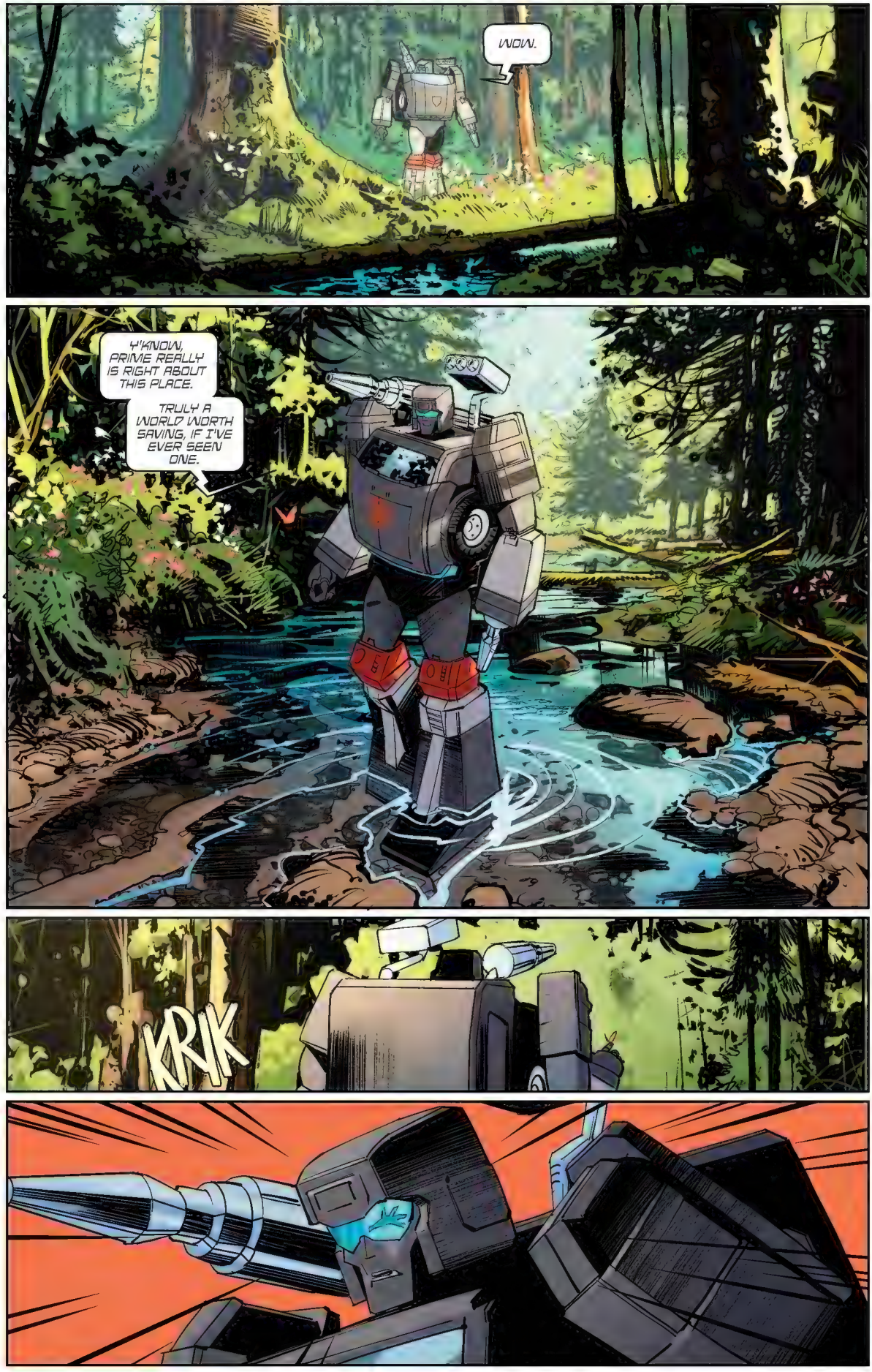
TRANSFORMATION COGS-- ACTIVATE!
KHEE
KAH
KO
KHE

READY, PRIME.
LET'S R--
HMMM.


WHAT'S WRONG?

WHERE IS TRAILBREAKER?
HE WAS ON WATCH, BUT I THOUGHT HE'D COME BACK IN.

...


WOW.
Y'KNOW, PRIME REALLY IS RIGHT ABOUT THIS PLACE.
TRULY A WORLD WORTH SAVING, IF I'VE EVER SEEN ONE.
KRIK

MEG--
WATCH AND LEARN, DECEPTICONS.

KRAKOOM
THIS IS HOW WE DEAL WITH AUTOBOTS.
NOW...
GLUG GLUG GLUG

I DRAIN YOUR SPARK AND BESTOW UPON YOU A...
PERMANENT DEATH.

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Happy New Year, folks! I hope everyone's ready for year three of the Energon Universe after that insane ending! We have so much stuff planned, it's wild…and joining me again to spread the new year cheer is Robert Kirkman!

This is how we start a letters column after what just happened! I mean, happy new year and all for sure, but man…pour one out for ol' Trailbreaker! I apologize in advance to all the Trailheads out there. This one hurt me, too, I swear! And look how lovingly Dan drew poor TB's demise. Heartbreaking!

I know because of my past work…a lot of people thought I was going to come into this book like a wrecking ball just laying waste to the cast! Not so! I've mostly affirmed a lot of our favorites to be alive up to this point. So, I've done the opposite!

Anyway, nothing like this happens for the sake of shock value. This is all to build story and when you finally see where Megatron's journey is leading, you will see! But until then…sorry. But also, I learned from the best! Transformers have to die! That's the tradition!

Ben, shall we find refuge in the mail for this month before the letters for this issue start rolling in?

Certainly! Let's check that mail bag!

Hi Transformers Team,

I've been a huge fan of Transformers since I was a kid watching the cartoon in the Eighties and being devastated watching the movie in 86 (yes, I'm that old).

I have been loving this new interpretation of the classic characters and lore, respecting what came before but making it exciting and fresh. I've especially liked how the Decepticons have been portrayed with new depth being added to Starscream, Thundercracker and especially Soundwave. He was the first toy I got as a kid so he will always be a favourite of mine.

With that in mind, I was wondering why Robert has decided to essentially revert Soundwave back to his Eighties cartoon personality and speech patterns now he has taken over writing duties? The stilted dialogue and coldness seems at odds with the more passionate character who fought Starscream and won for leadership of the Decepticons and cared deeply for his tapes, especially Ravage.

Is this simply a stylistic choice for the character, or will there be an explanation for the change in him since he was captured? I still love this book and all the other Energon Universe titles, but curious as to why this change was made to Soundwave.

Keep up the amazing work.
Phil

Thanks for writing in, Phil…a lot of us are "that old" when it comes to Transformers, haha.

Okay, Soundwave…yeah. So…to me, part of the fun of writing this book (and these characters over in VOID RIVALS) is trying to match the speech patterns from the classic show. To me, that's how the characters sound. To me, that's "correct".

I know the way I'm writing Soundwave is a slight departure from how he spoke before, but he did fall a long way and let's say maybe he landed on his head. So I think there's enough plausible deniability for the shift there, albeit somewhat flimsy.

I will say, I promise Soundwave is no less passionate. If he's ever released from captivity, he'll probably have a little more to say and I would expect that a hybrid of the two styles will emerge if he ever has to pontificate for a long duration.

To Ben's credit, this issue was flagged but we chose to explore this path.

Hi Transformers Skybound Team!!

Thanks for getting me heavily into Transformers again. I haven't enjoyed them since I was little, and now I'm almost an adult, I'm glad I was able to reconnect with the series. One element was this comic!! From the work of DWJ and now Kirkman, to movies like Transformers: One and The Transformers: The Movie, I have a newfound fixation on this franchise. As of writing this, I went over to my LCS, picked up this issue, read it as soon as I got home, and also picked up my very first Transformers figure!! (Tt was Arcee, if you were wondering.)

Issue 26's ending left me shocked. It's crazy final page reveals like this that keep me buying single issues month after month. Part of me thinks what happened to Megatron is as serious as it seems, and the other is not. Did they actually…defeat him? That easily? Anyway, Dan Mora's on the series for a few issues. He's my favorite comics artist of all time (does he ever take a break? His workload must be massive). To have Mr. Kirkman and Mr. Mora on the same book is a pleasure to say the least. It's a treat to see how fantastic this book gets every month, and I'd like to thank the incredible staff on it!

'Till all are one,
Luke

Thank you for writing in and your support, Luke, it's very much appreciated! Having Robert and Dan on this series is a legit

"dream come true" moment!

Being on this series with Dan is a dream come true! Stay tuned, Luke! Lots going on with ol' Megatron! Just you wait. That ending moment from issue 26 was only the beginning! Or really…maybe this story began long before that--as hinted at in this very issue! Intrigue!

HI TRANSFORMERS SKYBOUND TEAM!!

AGHH THE TEASE OF WHEELJACK LOOKING AT FOSSILS HAD ME JUMPING. PLEEEAAASEEEEEE I WANT DINOBOTTSSSSS!!!!!!! GRIMLOCK KING!!!!!

Also seeing Thundercracker join the Autobots was definitely not something I expected, but WOAH it's gonna be interesting to see how that plays out! It's so sad to see how things went between Skywarp and Thundercracker but I really hope Skywarp comes back around. Man, the Seekers have it rough right now.

The contrast between how Megatron and Optimus treat their troops is definitely something that caught my eye--like when Optimus offers the Energon to those who need it most first, (even giving some to Soundwave!?) and the first thing Megatron says when they get more Energon is assuming he would be repaired first.

There's so much going on in the best way. Honestly, the writing here has really got me invested and has me dying waiting for the next issues to come out like a long lost source of Energon.

ANYWAYS, I LOVE THIS SERIES SO MUCH I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MORE!

P.S. THE NEW ART LOOKS GORGEOUS I LOVE IT AHHHH!!!!!

Autobots, roll out!
- Miki

Thank you for the letter and enthusiasm, Miki! We'll see more of that deep contrast in leadership styles between Optimus Prime and Megatron as the series goes on…and I hope this issue blew you away!

Who is this "Grimlock" you speak of?

Dear Transformers team,

I just read issue #26 of Transformers and I absolutely loved it, Ii honestly wasn't sure if I was going to continue reading the series because DWJ and Jorge Corona were being removed from the creative team but with this most recent issue I have been convinced that we will be getting another amazing story.

Not "removed!" They both departed under extreme efforts to get them to stay! Let me assure you!

I really enjoyed how Optimus treated Thundercracker in this issue, giving him a chance to redeem himself. I'm really excited to see where this story line with Thundercracker becoming an Autobot or an ally to the Autobots plays out.

Also, Shredhead is super awesome please show more of him.

Best regards,
Xavier

Thank you for sticking around, Xavier, and I'm glad we won you over! It was sad to see Daniel and Jorge leave the series but they told the story they set out to tell and it was EPIC! But Robert and Dan are going to wow you, I promise! They have a LOT of cool stuff in store!

We love Shredhead as much as everyone else does. I promise they WILL get a chance in the spotlight sooner or later!

I really enjoyed the last issue; Thundercracker has always been my favorite of the Transformers, so I'm really happy to see him get some time in the spotlight. He's right up there with my other favorites, Jazz and the Dinobots. I'm really, really excited to see the Dinobots, I wish you all could have heard the squeal I let out when Wheeljack found that fossil a few issues back.
The Dinobots mean a lot to me, as a paleontology student with a lifelong love for dinosaurs and also a whole laundry list of learning disabilities. I always really related to the struggles the Dinobots face in G1 for being too "slow" or "stupid". Despite all that, they always came out as heroes. So, I'm really looking forward to what you guys have planned for them.

I'm not very good with words (kind of like everyone's favorite big robot dinosaurs) so I don't think I can really put into words how much I love the comics so far. They give me something to look forward to every month. Can't wait for the next issue!

Till all are one,
Jude

Thank you for the kind words and support, Jude. You words were perfect and meaningful and there's a lot of us out there that feel the exact same way about the Dinobots <3

Truth! Hopefully we'll actually see them in this series one day!!

And that's a wrap for this month! See y'all in 30 days for next mind-blowing issue!

-Ben

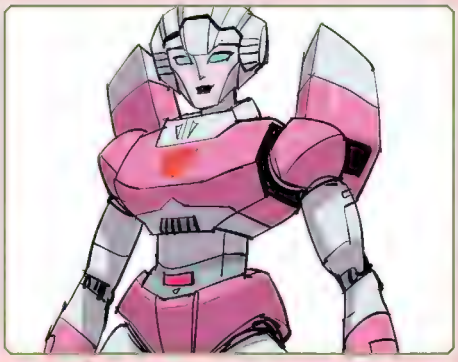
We're having the times of our lives here at Transformers Central! Just you wait until you see what we've got lined up for you fine people! Woo!

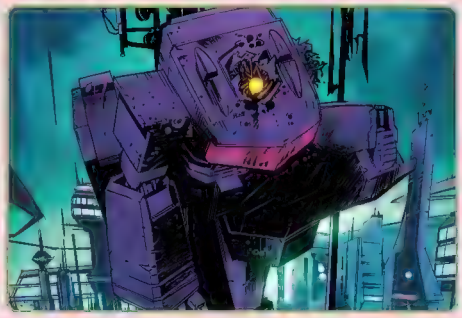
-Robert

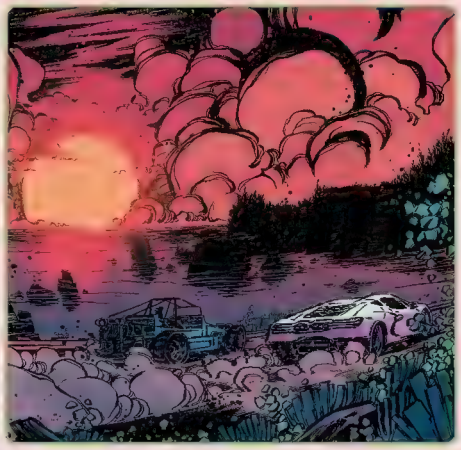
If you had any doubt that Megatron is one of the all-time greatest villains, then this issue confirms it! His gruesome take down of Trailbreaker will rank as one of the most diabolical demises this series has experienced to date (and we've had a few!)...but I have a really bad feeling he's only just getting started...

Ben!

-Ben Abernathy, Executive Editor







CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Arcee

WHERE: A fearless Autobot warrior and sharpshooter.

WHAT: Arcee's bravery has never been in doubt but with her elevation to Magnus, can she prove to be the strategic and inspiring leader that Optimus Prime and Ultra Magnus are counting on?

A MASSIVE HEADACHE!

I know readers are still stunned at the return of Shockwave last issue...how could he have survived Optimus Prime crushing his head like a balloon?! I guess we'll have to wait and see...maybe his spark is contained in the ominous single eye!

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: It's now time to ask Executive Editor Ben Abernathy the MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION--Ben, if you had an alt mode, what would it be?

A: Hmm...maybe a dune buggy like Beachcomber? The thought of riding peacefully along the beach would be amazing!

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

- ☐ VOID RIVALS #26 AVAILABLE 1/28
- ☐ G.I. JOE #17 AVAILABLE 1/14
- ☐ G.I. JOE #18 AVAILABLE 1/28
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #28 AVAILABLE 1/14

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PART 2 OF 6
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PATRICIO DELPECHE
VOID RIVALS
#26
ON SALE JANUARY 28

ROBERT KIRKMAN
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#29
ON SALE FEBRUARY 11

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"This book takes me back and reminds me of the comics that made me fall in love with the medium."

– JORGE CORONA
TRANSFORMERS

"The more I see of Ludo Lullabi's art, the more I fall in love with the worlds he makes. I can't get enough."

– RYAN OTTLEY
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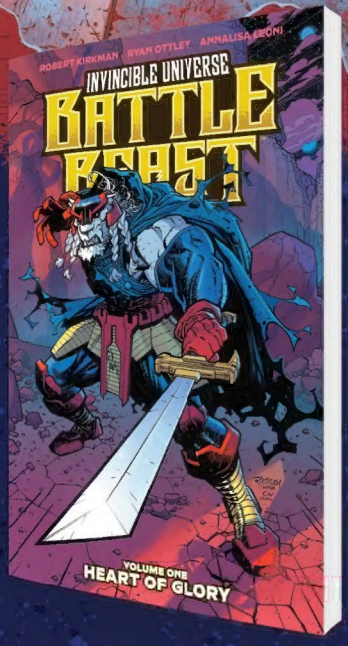

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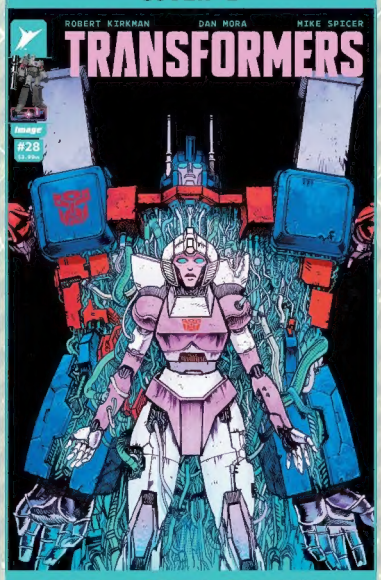

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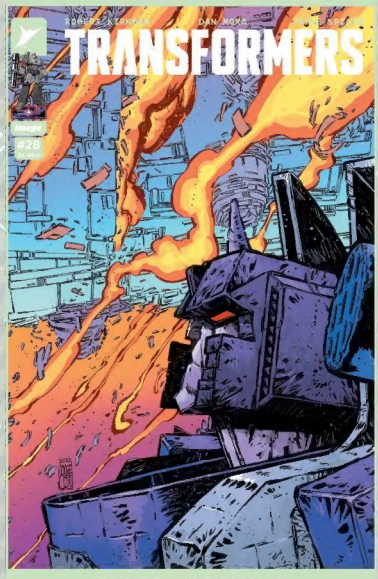

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